



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

HAITIAN HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSER ON THE RUN NABBED BY ICE

Human Rights Abuser Linked to Haiti's "Special Army Attaché Unit"

ORLANDO—A 33-year-old Haitian human rights abuser who has been on the run since 1998 was arrested here Wednesday by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention and removal officers.

Nesmy Leonidas is a self-confessed Haitian human rights abuser. Leonidas claimed to have been a member of the "Special Army Attaché Unit" in Haiti. The unit was comprised of civilians representing the Army in L'Asile, Haiti.

Leonidas, who is linked to having caused death to 20 Aristide and Lavalas supporters, has confessed to killing one person during a Lavalas demonstration.

ICE records revealed that Leonidas entered the United States illegally March 25, 1998 through the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Leonidas was found ineligible for any form of relief and ordered removed in absentia by an immigration on Dec. 7, 1998.

"The United States will not be a safe haven for human rights abusers," said Michael Rozos, Florida's field office director for detention and removal. "Those who think that they can run from their past are sorely mistaken."

Leonidas is in ICE custody at the Orange County Jail awaiting removal from the country.

The criminal investigators of ICE's Human Rights Violators Unit and the attorneys of its counterpart Human Rights Law Division are presently pursuing more than 200 cases of suspected human rights abusers.

ICE

ICE, the primary investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security, was established to bring a unified focus to the enforcement of U.S. immigration and customs laws, with the principal goal of preventing violations by terrorists and other criminals who threaten the nation's security.